

#### 116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2249

To require the review of the service of certain members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if such members should be awarded the Medal of Honor, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor based on the results of the review, and for other purposes.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 10, 2019

Mr. Hill of Arkansas (for himself, Mr. Cleaver, Mr. Graves of Missouri, and Ms. Houlahan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

## A BILL

To require the review of the service of certain members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if such members should be awarded the Medal of Honor, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor based on the results of the review, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "World War I Valor
- 5 Medals Review Act".

### SEC. 2. REVIEW ON AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR TO 2 CERTAIN WORLD WAR I VETERANS. 3 (a) Review Required.—Each Secretary concerned shall review the service records of each World War I vet-4 5 eran described in subsection (b) under the jurisdiction of such Secretary who is recommended for such review by 6 7 the Valor Medals Review Task Force referred to in sub-8 section (c), or another veterans service organization, in 9 order to determine whether such veteran should be awarded the Medal of Honor for valor during World War I. 10 11 (b) COVERED WORLD WAR I VETERANS.—The World War I veterans whose service records are to be reviewed under subsection (a) are the following: 14 (1) Any African American war veteran, Asian 15 American war veteran, Hispanic American war vet-16 eran, Jewish American war veteran, or Native Amer-17 ican war veteran who was awarded the Distinguished 18 Service Cross or the Navy Cross for an action that 19 occurred between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 20 1918. 21 (2) Any African American war veteran, Asian 22 American war veteran, Hispanic American war vet-23 eran, Jewish American war veteran, or Native Amer-24 ican war veteran who was awarded the Croix de

Guerre with Palm (that is, awarded at the Army

level or above) by the Government of France for an

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- action that occurred between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918.
- 3 (3) Any African American war veteran, Asian
- 4 American war veteran, Hispanic American war vet-
- 5 eran, Jewish American war veteran, or Native Amer-
- 6 ican war veteran who was recommended for a Medal
- 7 of Honor for an action that occurred from April 6,
- 8 1917, to November 11, 1918.
- 9 (c) Consultations.—In carrying out the review
- 10 under subsection (a), each Secretary concerned shall con-
- 11 sult at least once each fiscal year quarter with the Valor
- 12 Medals Review Task Force, jointly established by the
- 13 United States Foundation for the Commemoration of the
- 14 World Wars (in consultation with the United States World
- 15 War One Centennial Commission) and the George S. Robb
- 16 Centre for the Study of the Great War, and with such
- 17 other veterans service organizations as such Secretary
- 18 considers appropriate, until the conclusion of the review.
- 19 (d) Recommendation Based on Review.—If a
- 20 Secretary concerned determines, based upon the review
- 21 under subsection (a), that the award of the Medal of
- 22 Honor to a covered World War I veteran is warranted,
- 23 such Secretary shall submit to the President a rec-
- 24 ommendation that the President award the Medal of
- 25 Honor to that veteran.

1	(e) AUTHORITY TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR.—The
2	Medal of Honor may be awarded to a World War I veteran
3	in accordance with a recommendation of a Secretary con-
4	cerned under subsection (d).
5	(f) Waiver of Time Limitations.—An award of
6	the Medal of Honor may be made under subsection (e)
7	without regard to—
8	(1) section 7274 or 8298 of title 10, United
9	States Code, as applicable; and
10	(2) any regulation or other administrative re-
11	striction on—
12	(A) the time for awarding the Medal of
13	Honor; or
14	(B) the awarding of the Medal of Honor
15	for service for which a Distinguished Service
16	Cross or Navy Cross has been awarded.
17	(g) Definitions.—
18	(1) In general.—In this section:
19	(A) The term "Secretary concerned"
20	means—
21	(i) the Secretary of the Army, in the
22	case of members of the Armed Forces who
23	served in the Army between April 6, 1917,
24	and November 11, 1918; and

- 1 (ii) the Secretary of the Navy, in the 2 case of members of the Armed Forces who 3 served in the Navy or the Marine Corps 4 between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 5 1918.
  - (B) The term "African American war veteran" means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and who identified himself as of African descent on his military personnel records.
  - (C) The term "Asian American war veteran" means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and who identified himself racially, nationally, or ethnically as originating from a country in Asia on his military personnel records.
  - (D) The term "Hispanic American war veteran" means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and who identified himself racially, nationally, or ethnically as originating from a country where Spanish is an

official language on his military personnel records.

- (E) The term "Jewish American war veteran" means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and who identified himself as Jewish on his military personnel records.
- (F) The term "Native American war veteran" means any person who served in the United States Armed Forces between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and who identified himself as a member of a federally recognized tribe within the modern territory of the United States on his military personnel records.
- (2) APPLICATION OF DEFINITIONS OF ORI-GIN.—If the military personnel records of a person do not reflect the person's membership in one of the groups identified in subparagraphs (B) through (F) of paragraph (1) but historical evidence exists that demonstrates the person's Jewish faith held at the time of service, or that the person identified himself as of African, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American descent, the person may be treated as being a member of the applicable group by the Secretary con-

- 1 cerned (in consultation with the organizations re-
- 2 ferred to in subsection (c)) for purposes of this sec-

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